

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BIPARTISAN CASE FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

[From POLITICO, Jan. 17, 2011]

BIPARTISAN CASE FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

(By Eric Tanenblatt)

You wouldn't think that new Republican Govs. Nathan Deal of Georgia and Sam Brownback of Kansas would have much in common with the Democratic governor of Massachusetts, Deval Patrick. But all three have made volunteer "days of service" a centerpiece of their inaugurations.

They are asking citizens to join them in feeding the hungry, assisting the jobless and helping their neighbors in a host of other ways. They join a growing number of governors and mayors who are rediscovering the untapped power of citizen service.

These inaugural service events are not ceremonial gestures. They remind us that citizen service crosses all boundaries—and has always been at the heart of what it means to be an American.

America's story is the story of volunteers. Since the early days of our nation, volunteers have helped us meet our greatest challenges: patriots who fought for our founding ideals, women who reached for the ballot, civil rights foot soldiers who risked their lives for equality, firefighters who rushed into burning towers, ordinary citizens who came to the aid of a disaster stricken coast.

Last year, in the middle of the Great Recession, approximately 63.4 million Americans volunteered in some way in their communities—the largest increase since 2003. That's 63.4 million citizens from all backgrounds and walks of life tilting toward problems instead of running away from them.

But America faces tough challenges requiring a new generation of service and service leaders.

National service, as embodied in the three major programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service—AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America—engages millions of Americans of all ages and backgrounds in addressing issues of poverty, illiteracy, disasters, public safety, independent living and more throughout the country.

One the crucial ingredient of this federal program's success has been its support across the political spectrum. In fact, in a spirit of bipartisanship rarely seen in Washington these days, it took Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), working with leaders in the House, just weeks to rally the votes and pass the Serve America Act in 2009.

I am a lifelong Republican—let me give you three reasons why this modest investment in service is consistent with conservative principles and has a powerful catalytic effect on citizen empowerment.

First, national service recognizes that the best solutions come from outside Washington. It invests in citizens to solve prob-

lems, tapping the energy and ingenuity of our greatest resource—the American people. In the long run, this is likely to reduce reliance on government.

Second, an investment in national service is a good deal for taxpayers. AmeriCorps was built to be a public-private partnership. It leverages substantial private investment—more than \$375 million in non-federal funds each year—to fund such programs as Teach for America and Habitat for Humanity.

Third, while the primary purpose of national service is to get things done for people in need, it has important side benefits. One is the transforming effect it has on those who serve—exposing them to society's problems, bringing people from different races and backgrounds together, empowering them to act and often putting them onto a lifelong path of civic engagement.

The modern service movement is built on these principles, shared by people of every political persuasion and all walks of life.

We salute Deal, Brownback and Patrick for leading the way. We hope that their actions send a signal that will spread and carry forward through this year and beyond.

We can—and should—have a robust debate about the role and size of government. But in the course of that debate, we should recognize that there are important areas, like volunteer service, where we can find common ground.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my vote recorded on the House floor during the vote on H.R. 292 on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 because I was detained due to a flight delay caused by mechanical difficulties. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 292, Roll No. 12.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ARIZONA SHOOTING

SPEECH OF

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, first and foremost today, my thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff, the other victims of the shooting and their families and friends.

As Members of Congress, it is our duty and our privilege to reach out to our constituents to foster open discussions and exchanges of ideas. It's what makes this institution truly the people's House and it's one of the reasons many of us decided to run for office in the first place. GABBY was doing this work when this senseless tragedy occurred. A lone gunman interrupted a routine Congress on your Cor-

ner, killing six and wounding a dozen more, including our colleague GABBY.

At this somber time, I would like to echo the words of Speaker BOEHNER, "An attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serve." We cannot let the actions of one individual challenge one of the most basic tenets of our free society—the right to peaceably assemble. It is worth noting that Congresswoman GIFFORDS read the first amendment to our Constitution here on the House floor just days before this tragic event.

I look forward to the day when Congresswoman GIFFORDS returns to the House floor to continue her work on behalf of the people of the eighth district of Arizona. In the meantime, my thoughts and prayers are with all affected by this unthinkable event.

HONORING RICHARD HOLWICK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Richard Holwick. Dick will be receiving the 2010 Northlander of the Year award from the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce for his service to the Kansas City area community.

Dick grew up in the Kansas City area and attended Raytown schools until his family moved north of the river before his senior year of high school. Dick graduated from Oak Park High School and graduated from the University of Missouri—Columbia with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Accounting. Dick began working for his family's business, Kaw Transport, in 1976, leading it as President from 1982 to 1998, when the company condensed into KTTR and began focusing solely on tanker truck cleaning and maintenance. Dick also showed himself to be a leader for the business community, having served as Chairman for the Northland Redevelopment Corporation, the Clay County Economic Development Council and the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce during times of great economic boon for the Northland. Dick was instrumental in the design and construction of the new Christopher S. Bond Bridge over the Missouri River, providing the Northland with greater and more efficient access to Downtown Kansas City. Dick, ever cognizant of his roots, has also given back to his community by serving as the President of the Liberty Sertoma Club and as a Board Member for the Northland Salvation Army.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, his wife Annie, their children Lindsey, Angela, Evan and Bryan and their grandchildren Austin and Grace in commending Richard Holwick for his efforts to better Clay and Platte Counties and the surrounding communities.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.